REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application, all of which have been amended. No new matter has been added.

The drawings stand objected to for various informalities.

Accordingly, FIG. 5 has been corrected to separately show the "separation electrode 18" and "wiring layer 23". Claim 5 has been amended to recite that one of the wiring layers 23 acts as a common electrode.

Claims 1-10 stand objected to for various informalities which have been corrected in the aforementioned amendments. In particular, the term "separation electrode" has been changed to "separation plate" throughout the claims.

Claims 1-6 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,170,154 to Swarup (hereinafter "**Swarup**") in view of U.S. Patent 5,631,478 to Okumura (hereinafter "**Okumura**").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In Fig. 5B of **Swarup**, inductor patterns 24 and the bridge patterns 126 which are considered to be equivalent to the wiring layers, are mutually crossed, with insulating interlayer 150 provided therebetween, and a patterned layer on the ground 152 is formed near the above mentioned crossing portion.

Okumura has been cited merely for teaching the semiconductor substrate not present in **Swarup**, as admitted by the Examiner.

Applicants respectfully disagree.

The Examiner urges that the patterned layer on the ground 152 has an analogous function to the separation electrode of the present invention.

The separation electrode of the present invention is provided in the crossing portion (p. 9, lines 8-11). In contrast, the patterned layer on the ground 152 is provided near the crossing portion, not in the crossing portion, as apparently shown in Fig. 5B of **Swarup**. This indicates that the patterned layer on the ground 152 is not effective is preventing electrical interference between the wiring layers.

Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the separation electrode is selectively provided at the crossing portion where the wiring layers mutually cross.

Thus, the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1-10, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: Replacement Sheet of Drawing Fig. 5 (1 sheet)

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